

Figure 1: Chlamydia Diagnoses Reported to the
Maine Bureau of Health by Year, 1996 to 2002

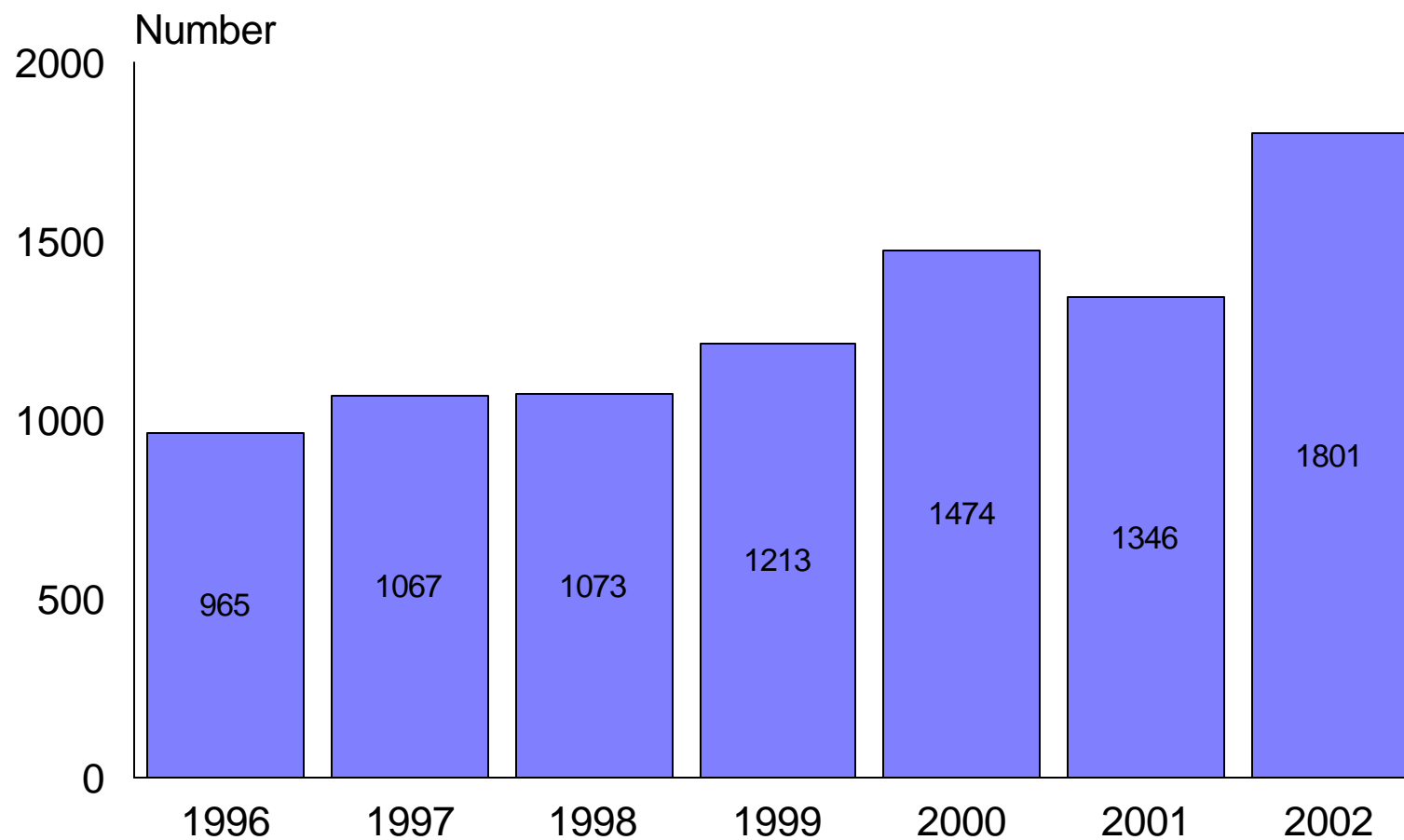


Figure 1 shows chlamydia diagnoses reported to the Maine Bureau of Health from 1996 to 2002. Apart from a slight decline in 2001, the number of diagnoses increased each year between 1996 and 2002, reaching a high-point of 1,801 cases in 2002. There was a 34% increase in the number of cases diagnosed between 2001 and 2002. Chlamydia is the most often-reported sexually transmitted disease in the state.

Figure 2: 2002 Chlamydia Diagnoses by Age Group (total = 1,801)

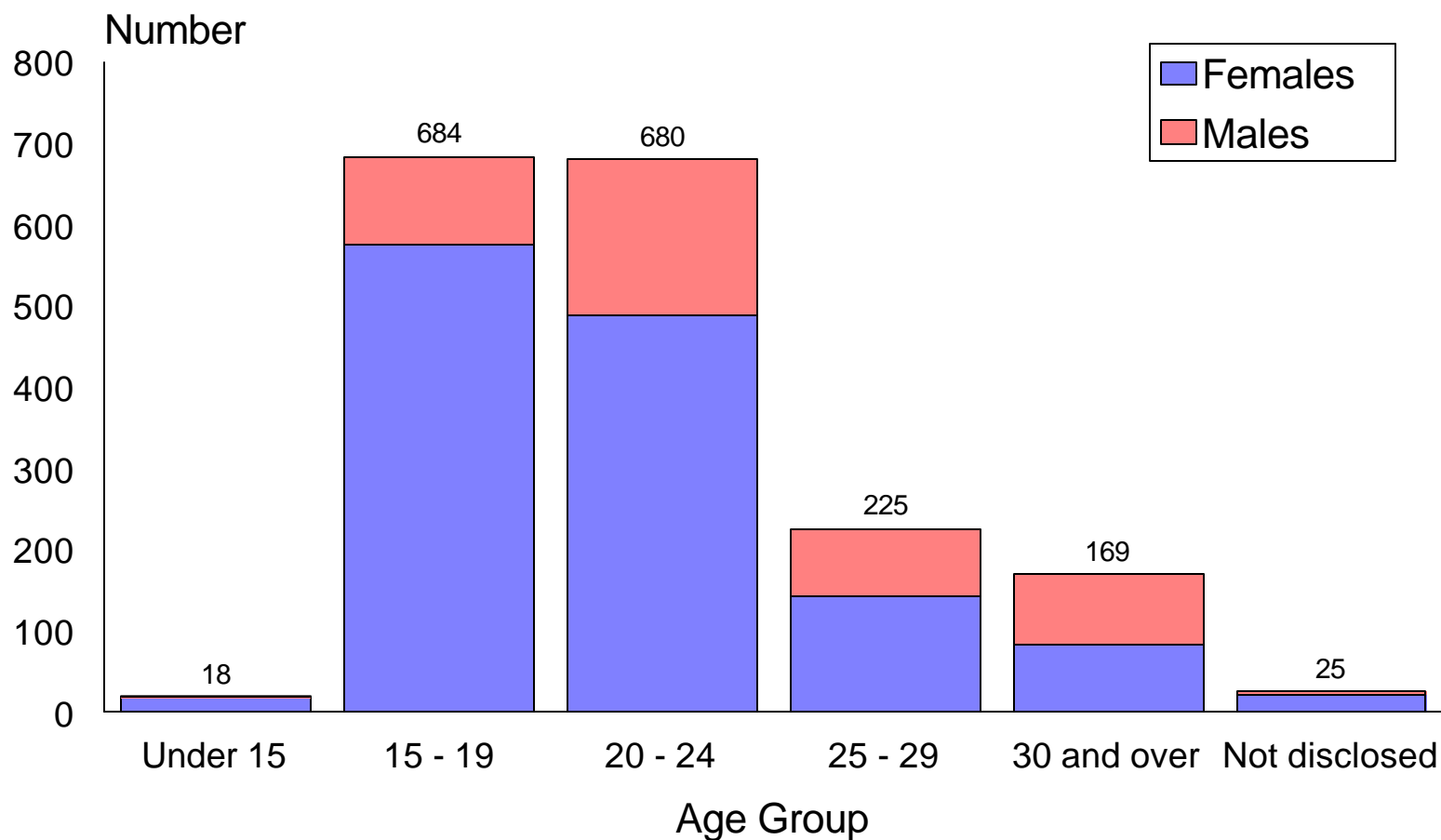


Figure 2 shows 2002 chlamydia diagnoses by age group and sex. People under 24 years old are disproportionately affected by this disease, accounting for 76% of all cases reported to the Bureau of Health last year. Females are diagnosed with chlamydia much more often than males, comprising 74% of 2002 reports. This difference is likely due to the fact that women are tested for the disease more often than men; women are routinely screened for chlamydia by health care providers when obtaining birth control or reproductive health care.

Table 1: 2002 Chlamydia Rates per 100,000 Population, by County
(Counties are rank-ordered by rate.)

County	No. of Cases	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Androscoggin	241	232
Kennebec	221	189
Penobscot	266	184
Cumberland	454	171
Franklin	36	122
Oxford	65	119
Piscataquis	20	116
York	208	111
Washington	34	100
Aroostook	72	97
Lincoln	26	77
Waldo	28	77
Sagadahoc	27	77
Somerset	39	77
Knox	28	71
Hancock	36	70

Table 1 shows 2002 chlamydia cases by county and provides a rate per 100,000 population for each county. Androscoggin had the highest rate, with 232 cases per 100,000 population, followed by Kennebec, Penobscot and Cumberland Counties. Cumberland County had the greatest number of diagnoses, with 454 cases reported during 2002. Counties with lower rates included Aroostook, Lincoln, Waldo, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Knox and Hancock, all with rates of fewer than 100 per 100,000 population.